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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Evan Beren

June was a very busy month for the Sepulveda Men's Golf Club, we began the month with our three round club championship and ended the month with the first round of the President's Cup, our match play major championship.

After a close call a few years ago, Steve Wiebel took home the Championship trophy as our Club Champion with a gross 3 day total of 224, a 2 stroke victory over Dustin Watanabe. David Horwitch ran away with the A Flight, his net score of 208 was 8 strokes better than second place finisher Ardi Nozari. The B Flight winner was also our Low Handicap Champion, Rueben Valles had a 3-day net total of 201, Hadi Morshed finished runner up in the B Flight with a score of 208.

The Club Championship marks the end of the 2016/2017 Golf Season. So it is also the end of the year long Player Of The Year contest. Based on scrip dollars won, Ben Raposas was this year's winner with \$685, David Horwitch was second at \$665 and Armen Mesropian finished third at \$640.

The President's Cup kicked off on the 25th of June, 30 of our 32 first round matches were played that day. One match is still to be decided as it was tied after 19 holes, a 9-hole playoff has been scheduled. This is a long tournament, but we are off to a good start as a number of second round matches have already been played.

Construction continues on the revamped practice area at the Sepulveda Golf Complex, work on the new bunker and green is coming along nicely.

David Horwitch, our Tournament Director, has a great schedule plan for the 2017/2018 season, I hope to see each and every one of you at a tournament soon.

THE NEXT TEE

By David Horwitch, Tournament Director

Summer is my favorite time for tournament golf. We have a great road schedule over the next few months, highlighted with a trip to Ojai Valley Inn. The Presidents Cup is underway, and we have crowned our Club Champion & Player of the Year.

This month, we head back to River Ridge. This time on the Victoria Lakes course. For those who missed out on the Palumbo, July is a great time to play this course. It's in fantastic shape and presents quite a challenge.

On July 27th we will be back at Hansen Dam. Our last tournament there was a massive success. Let's do it again.

Tournament questions and comments may be directed to dhorwitch@gmail.com

CITY CORNER

By Craig Kessler

The municipal men's golf club – or senior club – or women's club. Everyone has a different explanation as to their origin and purpose. And most “everyone” would be wrong.

The most common misconception is that in olden times when tee times went begging, they were organized for the purpose of generating business. The time honored reason preferred throughout the ages – money! Another misconception, although less common, is that they were organized to sanction competitions. That may true of golf associations, including the USGA, but that's not really the case with traditional municipal golf clubs. Yes, in modern times in particular, they are competition crazy – too crazy in my view. But they weren't established for that purpose. Another misconception is that they were organized for social purposes. Yes, there was a social aspect once upon a time, albeit not so much anymore, but sociability was not much present at the creation either.

Okay, stop teasing us with what these clubs aren't and tell us what they are oh wise one, or as some are no doubt saying under their breath – oh pompous one. Pomposity is much maligned. When done well, it can be exquisite, but I'll leave that discussion for another day. As for now, on to the origin of clubs in the municipal sector.

Golf may have begun on the craggy shores of Scotland where the “links land” wasn't fit for anything productive save practicing one's archery in a vain effort to actually beat the English in the next war – that and playing games. And the Scots' game was golf, a taciturn game for a taciturn tribe. That's why the home of golf, St. Andrews, is a public park. The Royal and Ancient (R & A) may be a private club, but it is not associated with the St. Andrews property in the same way that a traditional American country club is. That's because the traditional American country club is based upon the English club model, which had its greatest run during the Victorian Era, which is precisely when golf came to America. The gentry who summered in Newport (Rhode Island, not Orange County) took up the game and used the British model to do so – the rich emulating the rich as it were. Thus was born the “rich man's game” that haunts us to this day. It was never the game that was “rich;” it was the first Americans who took to the game who were rich, and they took it up the way the rich do things – in this case as the Gentry did them in the Empire.

When the USGA got together in 1896 to conduct a Championship called the United States Open (whatever became of that?) what it “got together” didn't involve individual golfers; it involved golf clubs. The USGA Members Program notwithstanding, the USGA is to this day an association of golf clubs, not an association of individual persons. From that foundation flowed all else, including the Handicap and Course Rating Systems in which a concept called “peer review” is central, which sounds suspiciously like “peerage,” but I digress.

Thus, when America's municipalities decided to add golf to their parkland palettes, a commitment never properly acknowledged and appreciated by golf's powers that be, the USGA decided to create protocols that would allow the ordinary working stiffs who played these public sector tracks to play the game the same way as their rich counterparts at the Victorian clubs – not as deracinated individuals, but as members of clubs.

That my fellow members is our founding purpose. A lot of ancillary benefits have followed to be sure, as have corresponding responsibilities, but that is our origin. We, the SCGA and the City forget that at our collective perils.

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Tournament Player of the Year Trophy in Memory of Ed Cohn “On the Other Hand”

Ben Raposas wins again this year with good play at the Palumbo. Board member David Horwich runs up the board to second with a win at the Club Championship. Congratulations to all the winners!

Player	Winnings	Rank
Ben Raposas	685	1
David Horwitch	665	2
Armen Mesropian	640	3
Matt Soule	630	4
David Gilbreath	580	5
Dustin Watanabe	520	6
Reuben Valles	485	7
George Olteanu	465	8
Steve Weible	440	9
Hadi Morshed	430	10
Virgil Budhu	390	11
Steve Hansen	385	12
Danny Longmire Jr.	380	13
David Longmire	345	14
Erik Rogers	320	15
Craig Cacek	315	16
Patrick Warren	310	17
Mark Vaughan	305	18
Mark Michelini	290	19
Mark Kessler	290	19
Daniel Sniegowski	260	21
Todd Mander	260	21
Gordon Seaberg	255	23
Tommaso Trinchieri	255	23
Andy Levine	250	25
Vinod Chhabra	240	26
Andrew Howard	235	27
David Watanabe	235	27
Bruce Davies	225	29
Ardeshir Nozari	220	30
Gerard Sanders	220	30
Jeff Prey	210	32

The complete standings can be found at WWW.SMGC.ORG

The 62th Annual Club Championship

Club Champion
224 - Steve Weible
Handicap Champion
201 - Rueben Valles

BACKSPIN SHOTS

by The Gapwedge

Gapwedge had once been in a severe slump and one of his buddies, a golf instructor by trade, gave him a mini-lesson.

Buddy started by asking if Gapwedge had played baseball. Gapwedge had. He then had Gapwedge make a few baseball swings with a club, gradually lowering the swing plane until it was a golf swing. It was an eye opener. You might try that if your swing gets out of kilter.

Most of us older statesmen learned to play baseball before we even considered taking up golf and were very familiar with a baseball swing when we did take up golf. Of course the batter strides to one extent or the other while swinging the bat and the golfer doesn't—at least on purpose. But the similarities far outnumber the differences in terms of the mechanics.

Watch the slow motion replay of a home run swing and you'll see the batter load up as the pitcher delivers, shift his weight into a firm front side, maintain his eyes on the ball and his head behind the ball at impact and follow through in a full release of the barrel of the bat. Just picture the swing you might make if your golf ball was stuck in a bush at belt height and you foolishly tried to hit it.

Championship Flight		
Score	Player	Prize
224	Steve Weible	\$300
226	Dustin Watanabe	\$200
229	Andrew Kukla	\$135
232	Beeri Meza	\$50
232	Jeff Prey	\$50
236	Michael Saghian	\$15

"A" Flight Low Net		
Score	Player	Prize
208	David Horwitch	\$300
216	Ardeshir Nozari	\$200
217	Mark Michelini	\$135
218	Vinod Chhabra	\$90
219	Brandon Wahl	\$15
219	William Nelson	\$15
219	Craig Cacek	\$15
219	Chris Jaskiewicz	\$15
219	Sam Schatz	\$15
219	Daniel Longmire	\$15
219	Ben Raposas	\$15
219	Gerard Sanders	\$15
219	Laurence Silva	\$15

"B" Flight Low Net		
Score	Player	Prize
201	Reuben Valles	\$300
208	Hadi Morshed	\$200
214	David Patterson	\$135
218	George Olteanu	\$90
220	Juan Lopez	\$15
220	Buzz Osborne	\$15
220	Khody Azar	\$15
220	Patrick Warren	\$15
220	Lupe Escobedo	\$15
220	Farhad Keliddari	\$15
220	Daniel Sniegowski	\$15
220	Tommy Eunice	\$15
220	Virgil Budhu	\$15
220	Edward Licht	\$15
220	Evan Beren	\$15
220	Sepehr Raafat	\$15
220	Michael Melamed	\$15
220	Michael Teague	\$15
220	Todd Mander	\$15
220	Joe Radford	\$15
220	Armen Mesropian	\$15

Skins - Round 1 Balboa Saturday, June 3 Gross Skin \$72

Hole	Player
1	Everardo Gomez
3	Laurence Silva
4	Michael Saghian
6	Bruce Davies
9	Mark Reed
10	Michael Saghian
12	Sam Schatz
14	Everardo Gomez

Net Skins \$165 each

Hole	Player
1	Everardo Gomez
5	Ray Hassanlou
6	Bruce Davies
14	Everardo Gomez

Round 2 Encino Sunday, June 4 Gross Skins \$142 each

Hole	Player
6	Mike Nichol
7	Everardo Gomez
11	Jeff Prey
16	Vinod Chhabra

Net Skins \$108 each

Hole	Player
1	Bryan Nichols
2	Lupe Escobedo
3	Dan Crawford
10	Virgil Budhu
16	Vinod Chhabra
18	Jeff Sable

Round 3 Encino Sunday, June 11 Gross Skins \$51 each

Hole	Player
4	Laurence Silva
5	Edward Licht
7	Daniel Longmire
13	Steve Weible
17	Dustin Watanabe
18	Michael Saghian

Net Skins \$85 each

Hole	Player
3	Reuben Valles
5	Edward Licht
16	Todd Mander
18	Michael Saghian

Prize Money
All tournament place winnings are paid in gift certificates.

If you have knowledge of a hole-in-one by a member of the SMGC please contact Mike Levy by email at mikelevy69@gmail.com or by phone at (818) 427-1925

HANDICAP CHATTER

by Tommaso Trinchieri, Handicap Chairman

MATCH PLAY RULES VS STROKE PLAY

The 2017 President's Cup started last week. As our illustrious Tournament Director stated, "for those who have not played match play, it's a great format."

Golfers playing match play need to be aware of the differences in the rules between match play and stroke play. Some of the differences are major, some are minor and some involve a different type of penalty when rules are broken. Here is a rundown of some of the most important differences in the Rules of Golf for match play:

Biggest Difference: The Way it's Played

In this sense, match play is a whole different game than stroke play. In stroke play, golfers accumulate strokes over the course of 18 holes. The golfer with the fewest strokes at the completion of the round wins. In match play, each hole is a separate competition; the player winning the most holes wins the match.

Conceded Putts OK In Match Play

In friendly rounds of golf, golfers often ask for and give "gimmies," very short putts that one simply picks up rather than holing out. Gimmies, needless to say, are illegal under the Rules of Golf, but many recreational golfers use them anyway.

In match play, however, conceded putts are perfectly legal: they are part of the game. Your opponent can concede a putt to you at any point, whether it's six inches from the cup or 60 feet. But conceded putts almost always come, of course, on very short putts.

Conceded putts should only be offered, they should never be requested. That's why in some match play matches you'll notice a golfer lingering over a very short putt - the golfer is hoping his opponent will tell him to just pick it up.

Fellow-Competitor vs. Opponent

This is a semantic difference. In stroke play, the golfers you are playing against are your "fellow-competitors." In match play, the golfer you are playing against is your "opponent."

Hit That One Again

There are several scenarios in match play where a transgression might result in your opponent canceling your shot and requiring you to replay it; whereas in stroke play, the same transgression would result in a 2-stroke penalty or no penalty at all.

A few examples:

- **Playing out of turn:** In stroke play, order of play is a matter of etiquette. If you hit out of turn, it's a breach of etiquette, but there is no penalty. In match play, if you hit out of turn your opponent can require you to replay the shot in the proper order. And if your first shot was a great one, you can bet that you'll be replaying.
- **Hitting from outside the teeing ground:** In stroke play, teeing off from outside the teeing ground (the teeing ground is between the tee markers and up to two club lengths behind the tee markers) results in a 2-stroke penalty. In match play, there is no stroke penalty, but your opponent can cancel your shot and require you to replay it.
- **Hitting an opponent:** In stroke play, if your ball hits a fellow-competitor or his equipment (if it is accidentally stopped or deflected by same), it's rub of the green. In match play, you have the option to replay the shot.
- **Hitting a ball at rest on the green:** In stroke play, if your putt strikes another ball on the green, you get a 2-stroke penalty. In match play, there is no penalty.

The Big Penalty

In the rule book, just about every section concludes with a warning: "Penalty for Breach of Rule." If a golfer fails to follow the proper procedures set forth in the rules, he will incur a penalty in addition to any penalties set forth in that rule.

That penalty in stroke play is usually 2 strokes, and in match play is usually loss of hole.

Better Late than Never

In stroke play, disqualification is the result if you miss your tee time. In match play, you can show up late and still play... as long as you make your match by at least the second tee. You'll have forfeited the first hole, but you can pick up the match on No. 2. If you fail to make it by the No. 2 tee, you're disqualified.

The differences between match play and stroke play, where they exist, are elucidated in the Rules of Golf. If there is a difference, that difference will be spelled out in the applicable section, so browse through the rule book to learn more about match play rules.